

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1 (Currently Amended). A method of determining which types of status information to extract from a monitored device with a plurality of communication protocols communicatively coupled to a network, comprising:

selecting a communication protocol among a plurality of communication protocols used to extract status information from the device;

retrieving, from a first memory, an information ~~a protocol object~~-associated with the selected communication protocol, wherein the ~~protocol object~~ information includes at least a type of status information, a weight of the status information, and information for extracting the type of status information from the device using the selected communication protocol;

determining if the type of status information is present in a second memory, wherein the second memory comprises status information previously extracted from the device through a second protocol;

if the determining step determines that the type of status information is present in the second memory, checking whether the weight of the status information stored in the ~~protocol object~~ information is greater than a corresponding weight associated with the status information of the same type stored in the second memory;

if (1) the determining step determines that the type of status information is not present in the second memory, or (2) if the determining step determines that the type of status information is present in the second memory, but the checking step determines that the weight of the status information is greater than the corresponding weight associated with the status information of the same type stored in the second memory, accessing the device using the selected communication protocol and the information for extracting the device contained in the ~~protocol object~~ information to obtain the status information.

2 (Currently Amended). The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
repeating the determining, checking, and accessing steps for each type of status  
information contained in the ~~protocol~~-object information.

3 (Original). The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
repeating the selecting, retrieving, determining, checking, and accessing steps for each  
protocol of the plurality of communication protocols

4 (Original). The method of claim 1, wherein the determining step comprises:  
determining if the type of status information is present in a status information map in  
the second memory, the status information map having at least one entry, wherein each entry  
includes a status information type, a status information value, and a status information  
weight.

5 (Original). The method of claim 1, wherein the selecting step comprises:  
selecting a communication protocol among SNMP, HTTP, and FTP.

6 (Original). The method of claim 1, wherein the weight of the status information  
indicates a relative informative value of the status information with respect to status  
information of a same type extracted using another of the plurality of communication  
protocols.

7 (Currently Amended). A system for determining which types of status information to extract from a monitored device with a plurality of communication protocols communicatively coupled to a network, comprising:

means for selecting a communication protocol among a plurality of communication protocols used to extract status information from the device;

means for retrieving, from a first memory, ~~a protocol object~~ an information associated with the selected communication protocol, wherein the ~~protocol object~~ information includes at least a type of status information, a weight of the status information, and information for extracting the type of status information from the device using the selected communication protocol;

means for determining if the type of status information is present in a second memory, wherein the second memory comprises status information previously extracted from the device through a second protocol;

means for checking whether the weight of the status information stored in the ~~protocol object~~ information is greater than a corresponding weight associated with the status information of the same type stored in the second memory, when the means for determining determines that the type of status information is present in the second memory;

means for accessing the device using the selected communication protocol and the information for extracting the device contained in the ~~protocol object~~ information to obtain the status information, if (1) the means for determining determines that the type of status information is not present in the second memory, or (2) if the means for determining determines that the type of status information is present in the second memory, but the means for checking determines that the weight of the status information is greater than the corresponding weight associated with the status information of the same type stored in the second memory.

8 (Original). The system of claim 7, wherein the means for determining comprises:  
means for determining if the type of status information is present in a status information map in the second memory, the status information map having at least one entry, wherein each entry includes a status information type, a status information value, and a status information weight.

9 (Original). The system of claim 7, wherein the means for selecting comprises:  
means for selecting a communication protocol among SNMP, HTTP, and FTP.

10 (Original). The system of claim 7, wherein the weight of the status information indicates a relative informative value of the status information with respect to status information of a same type extracted using another of the plurality of communication protocols.

11 (Currently Amended). A computer readable storage medium encoded with instructions, which when executed by a computer causes to the computer to implement a method ~~program product having a computer usable medium~~ for determining which types of status information to extract from a monitored device with a plurality of communication protocols communicatively coupled to a network, the method comprising:

~~instructions for~~ selecting a communication protocol among a plurality of communication protocols used to extract status information from the device;

~~instructions for~~ retrieving, from a first memory, a protocol object ~~an information~~ associated with the selected communication protocol, wherein the ~~protocol object~~ information includes at least a type of status information, a weight of the status information, and

information for extracting the type of status information from the device using the selected communication protocol;

~~instructions for~~ determining if the type of status information is present in a second memory, wherein the second memory comprises status information previously extracted from the device through a second protocol;

~~instructions for~~ checking whether the weight of the status information stored in the ~~protocol object~~ information is greater than a corresponding weight associated with the status information of the same type stored in the second memory, when the instructions for determining determine that the type of status information is present in the second memory;

~~instructions for~~ accessing the device using the selected communication protocol and the information for extracting the device contained in the ~~protocol object~~ information to obtain the status information, if (1) the instructions for determining determine that the type of status information is not present in the second memory, or (2) if the instructions for determining determine that the type of status information is present in the second memory, but the instructions for checking determine that the weight of the status information is greater than the corresponding weight associated with the status information of the same type stored in the second memory.

12 (Currently Amended). The computer ~~program product~~ readable storage medium of claim 11, wherein the method further comprising comprises:

~~instructions for~~ repeating the ~~instructions for~~ determining, ~~instructions for~~ the checking, and ~~instructions for~~ the accessing for each type of status information contained in the ~~protocol object~~ information.

13 (Currently Amended). The computer ~~program-product~~ readable storage medium of claim 11, wherein the method further comprising comprises:

~~instructions for repeating the instructions for selecting, instructions for the retrieving, instructions for the determining, instructions for checking, and instructions for the accessing~~  
for each protocol of the plurality of communication protocols

14 (Currently Amended). The computer ~~program-product~~ readable storage medium of claim 11, wherein the ~~instructions for determining comprise~~ comprises:

~~instructions for determining if the type of status information is present in a status~~  
information map in the second memory, the status information map having at least one entry,  
wherein each entry includes a status information type, a status information value, and a status  
information weight.

15 (Currently Amended). The computer ~~program-product~~ readable storage medium of claim 11, wherein the ~~instructions for selecting comprise~~ comprises:

~~instructions for selecting a communication protocol among SNMP, HTTP, and FTP.~~

16 (Currently Amended). The computer ~~program-product~~ readable storage medium of claim 11, wherein the weight of the status information indicates a relative informative value of the status information with respect to status information of a same type extracted using another of the plurality of communication protocols.